

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

September 23, 2009

The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
S-128 Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
S-146A Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Chairman
Subcommittee on Transportation and
Housing and Urban Development
Committee on Appropriations
142 Dirksen Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Christopher S. Bond
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Transportation and
Housing and Urban Development
Committee on Appropriations
128 Dirksen Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable David Obey
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
H-218 Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jerry Lewis
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
1016 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Olver
Chairman
Subcommittee on Transportation,
Housing, and Urban Development
Committee on Appropriations
2358-A Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Latham
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Transportation,
Housing, and Urban Development
Committee on Appropriations
2349 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Inouye, Murray, Obey, and Olver,
and Ranking Members Cochran, Bond, Lewis, and Latham:

We are writing to request that the conference report for FY 2010 Transportation-HUD appropriations bill recede to the House funding level of \$350 million for the Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) program.

As you know, the HOPWA program, which enjoys wide bipartisan support, is the only federal housing program that specifically provides cities and states with resources to address the housing crisis facing people living with HIV/AIDS. Despite consistent support from your committee in increasing HOPWA's annual appropriation, the growing demand for services requires a substantial increase this year. The National AIDS Housing Coalition estimates that over \$3.2 billion is required to truly meet the housing needs of all those living with HIV/AIDS.

While major strides have been made in treatment options for people living with HIV/AIDS, the cost of these new treatments can often force people to decide between essential medications and necessities such as housing. Individuals with HIV/AIDS must have stable housing to ensure access to, and benefit from, complex drug treatments which often require special dietary needs. Homeless or unstably housed HIV infected persons experience higher viral loads and more hospitalizations than those who are stably housed. Inadequate housing is not only a barrier to treatment, but also puts people with HIV/AIDS at risk of premature death from exposure to other diseases, poor nutrition, stress and lack of medical care.

At any given time, one-third to one-half of all Americans with HIV/AIDS are either homeless or in imminent danger of losing their homes. HOPWA answers this need, successfully providing suitable, reasonably-priced housing for thousands of Americans battling AIDS. HOPWA enables cities and states to design and provide community-based, cost-effective housing for people living with HIV/AIDS and their families. It provides maximum flexibility so that states and communities throughout the U.S. and in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands can implement strategies that respond to local housing needs and shortfalls.

We urge you to include the House-passed allocation of \$350 million for HOPWA in the FY10 Transportation-HUD conference report so that this important program may continue to serve those in need.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Jerold Nadler

[Signature]

Conor B. Maloney

Aimee DeHette

[Signature]

[Signature]

Robert Walsh

John A. Warner

George Miller Dennis J. Kucinski

Tammy Baldwin John Longenecker

Jim McHenry Keith Ellison

Rush Holt Barack

Michael E. Caputo Nail Abramovitch

Al Green John Lewis

Charles B. Rangel Russ Carnahan

John Dingell Ann E. Climer

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Nyde M. Utter Elisha E. Cummings

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